

up the deficiency in my party by coming to the rescue in order to carry the measure through the House. I was promised that support, and I must say that my hon. friend the Solicitor General was true to his promise, but unfortunately, when the Bill came up in 1894, the other hon. gentlemen who had promised me their support thought it was not in the interest of their party to vote for it, and therefore, with the number of hon. gentlemen from my own side whom I lost, because they were always averse to any measure which they thought would centralize the judges in Quebec, Montreal and Sherbrooke, and which would make it very difficult for them to be ever appointed judges, I was obliged, if not to withdraw the Bill, to leave it before the public for another year, and it was referred to the committee on legislation. This measure now before the House, in so far as the province of Quebec is concerned, is not needed. There are already thirty judges of the Superior Court in that province disseminated all over the province. Ten were assigned to the city and district of Montreal and four to the city and district of Québec, and the others are supposed to reside in their special districts. When I brought my Bill before the local House, I had very carefully prepared statistics on which I based my opinion, and on which I claimed that the House should make this radical reform in our system. These statistics are true to-day as they were then, and they go to show that there should be certainly no judge added to the number already appointed. Here are the figures of the average number of writs issued yearly in each district, in the years 1877, 1878, and 1879, and I have also similar statistics for the years 1889, 1890 and 1891. I may say that the system which prevails in the province of Quebec was introduced in 1854 by the late Sir George Cartier, and this has continued to exist without any amendment except the increase in the number of judges. It is a system which is completely out of date, and should certainly not be allowed to exist any longer. Here are the statistics for the years 1877, 1878 and 1879, of the average number of writs issued yearly in the Superior Courts in the various districts, in cases of \$400 and over :

Arthabaska	38
Beauce	22
That is, 22 suits taken out in the district in a year.	
Beauharnois	18
Bedford	55
Chicoutimi	5
Gaspé	2
Iberville	26
Joliette	10
Kamouraska	33
Montmagny	23
Montreal	900
Ottawa	25
Quebec	398
Richelieu	58

Rimouski	21
Saguenay	3
St. Francis	126
St. Hyacinthe	25
Terrebonne	30
Three Rivers	42

Sir CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER. One judge had two suits a year.

Mr. CASGRAIN. Yes, and in some of the districts which are enumerated here, the number of writs now issued is still less than it was in those years. Take, for instance, the district of Montmagny, it is a well known fact that judicial business has decreased there enormously, owing especially to the law which was passed not very long ago, by which the county of Bellechasse was detached from the district of Montmagny and concurrent jurisdiction given to the court of Quebec over it.

Let me give some statistics for the years 1889, 1890 and 1891, and I am sorry I have not statistics for the later years. During these years, the average yearly number of writs, in cases of \$400 and over, issued by the Superior Court, was as follows :—

Montreal	470
Quebec	104
Ottawa	20
Joliette and Terrebonne	39
Three Rivers and Richelieu.....	56
Chicoutimi and Saguenay	4
Gaspé and Rimouski	19
Kamouraska and Montmagny	59
Beauce and Arthabaska.....	39
St. Francis	104
Bedford and Beauharnois	64
St. Hyacinthe and Iberville.....	53

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. I have an official return which shows that in 1890 there were 3,965 cases in Montreal ; in 1891, 4,443 cases ; and in 1892, 4,540 cases.

Mr. CASGRAIN. The figures I am giving now are those of cases of \$400 and over.

The SOLICITOR GENERAL. We do not try small cases under \$400.

Mr. CASGRAIN. For the same year, the average number of cases under \$400 was as follows :—

Montreal	282
Ottawa	13
Terrebonne	7
Joliette	16
Richelieu	16
St. Francis	63
Beauharnois	18
Bedford	20
Iberville	15
St. Hyacinthe	17
Quebec	63
Three Rivers	17
Saguenay	1
Chicoutimi	2
Gaspé	3
Rimouski	3
Kamouraska	7
Montmagny	28
Beauce	9
Arthabaska.....	14